

Virginia's Reentry Plan: Key Elements

Four Subcommittees:

- Social Reintegration
- Employment and Education
- Financial Obligations, Financial and Community Resources, and Housing
- Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse

SOCIAL REINTEGRATION SUBCOMMITTEE

- Begin reentry planning at intake
- Adopt standardized Risk/Needs Assessment instrument

SOCIAL REINTEGRATION SUBCOMMITTEE, II

- Plan timing of treatment, education and other programming during incarceration
- Conduct gap analysis to document disparity between validated program needs and resources

SOCIAL REINTEGRATION SUBCOMMITTEE, III

- Strengthen relationships between offenders and families
- Develop and distribute handbook for families to improve visitation and access to support groups
- Expand video project “Messages from Mom/Dad” for inmates to send to children

SOCIAL REINTEGRATION SUBCOMMITTEE, IV

- Examine modifying the cost structure for inmate telephone system to reduce financial burden on families and encourage increased communication
- Expand availability of parenting programs within prison system

SOCIAL REINTEGRATION SUBCOMMITTEE, V

- Develop family counseling and mentoring program to prepare both offenders and their families for reentry

EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

- Promote incentives to employers for hiring those with employment barriers, including ex-inmates
- Develop and implement public campaign to promote value of recruiting offenders as employees

EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE, II

- Conduct gap analysis of available job development and placement services; enhance services in identified areas
- Examine barriers to employment for offenders (i.e occupational licenses & certifications)

EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE, III

- Develop partnerships with private sector industries for training inmates in areas with labor shortfalls
- Expand and update Productive Citizenship program

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS, FINANCIAL AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES, AND HOUSING SUBCOMMITTEE

- Ensure inmates are aware of all financial obligations prior to release
- Explore increased use of civil means for collection of financial obligations
- Propose uniform guidelines to structure payment of obligations

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS, FINANCIAL AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES, AND HOUSING SUBCOMMITTEE, II

- Explore availability of community service as available alternative to cash payments
- Examine child support guidelines to increase collections and reduce barriers to successful reentry
- Recommend that DOC modify policy, to allow increase in funds in inmate accounts held until, and paid upon release

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS, FINANCIAL AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES, AND HOUSING SUBCOMMITTEE, III

- Develop consolidated list of affordable long-term housing opportunities
- Coordinate with local Housing Authorities regarding ex-offender access to public housing

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS, FINANCIAL AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES, AND HOUSING SUBCOMMITTEE, IV

- Implement a pre-release application process for food stamps, Medicaid, SSI, etc. for eligible offenders
- Expand use of mentors to work with newly released offenders and their families
- Develop pilot local Reentry Boards

HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SUBCOMMITTEE

- Improve planning, assessment and service delivery process with Prisons, Community Corrections and local and state MH/SA providers
- Reduce waiting times for access to Federal disability benefits and state rehabilitative services for offenders with disabilities

HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SUBCOMMITTEE, II

- Provide health record summary to community treatment providers at time of release
- Create strategies to improve access of Community Corrections staff to crisis intervention for ex-offenders with acute MH and SA treatment needs

CROSS-CUTTING/SYSTEMATIC STRATEGIES

- Consolidate service assistance sites (one stop shopping)
- Improve information provided to offenders just prior to and upon release concerning services and contacts in their particular communities

CROSS-CUTTING/SYSTEMATIC STRATEGIES, II

- Develop additional training for state and local agencies' staff who deal with returnees to make them aware of data and program changes related to reentry improvement efforts
- Increase alternative sanctions available to judges and probation staff for technical violators